



State Dept. review completed

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Release of Kennedy-Khrushchev  
Exchanges

Professor Barton Bernstein of Stanford University has made numerous requests, dating back to January 1971, for copies of documents related to the Kennedy-Khrushchev exchanges during the Cuban Missile crisis of October 1962. Of the ten documents involved, five have already been declassified. The Department reviewed the remaining five documents, and on April 15, 1971 requested White House concurrence in their release. On April 23, 1971, however, Mrs. Davis notified the Department that it had been decided that the documents should not be released.

The Department has reviewed these documents again in the light of Executive Order 11652 and we continue to believe that their declassification would not be damaging to the national security. The widespread knowledge of this series, the historical significance of this period, as well as the fact that some of these documents have already been published, provide additional justification for releasing the remaining documents.

Accordingly, the Department requests that the NSC Staff review its previous negative decision.

Should release be authorized, we recommend that the documents be published in the Department of State Bulletin in order to avoid charges of playing favorites in the academic community.

*Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.*  
Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Department's Memorandum dated 4/15/71
2. NSC Memorandum dated 4/23/71
3. List of Kennedy-Khrushchev Exchanges
4. Documents